Ispidina—picta, madagascariensis
Myioceyx—lecontei

The first, *Alcedo*, is characterized by larger size and black bill. The other three are all small, red-billed and closely related in color pattern. They differ among themselves only in the shape of the bill, and even in this character the genera *Corythornis* and *Ispidina* are linked by *C.leucogaster* which has a bill intermediate in width between *C. cristata* and *I. picta*. Since in this group bill shape is an adaptive character, the differences between the last three genera listed above are not sufficient to support generic recognition, and I recognize only two genera in Africa:

Alcedo—semitorquata, quadribrachys
Corythornis—cristata, leucogaster, picta, madagascariensis, lecontei.

Note: I am convinced that the resemblances between *Corythornis* and *Ceyx* are due to convergence and do not show close relationship. I am not as convinced that *Corythornis*, *Ispidina* and *Myioceyx* should be lumped, although I believe that this arrangement best shows that they are a natural group of closely related forms.

A new form of *Cisticola textrix Vieillot*

by Mr. C. M. N. White

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In 1930 Lynes recognised only two forms of *Cisticola textrix*, the spot breasted nominate form of the south west Cape Province and the plain breasted bird of further east and north to the Transvaal which he called *mystica*. In adopting *mystica* described in 1914 for the eastern bird, he left in doubt the correct use of *major* proposed a year before in case it should prove a distinct form. The question does not seem to have been carried any further since then and Mr. P. A. Clancey kindly informs me (in litt.) that inadequate material has been available to him to elucidate the point. Under these circumstances it seems preferable to adopt *major* for all the south eastern and Transvaal birds until further evidence is forthcoming. Since 1930 a further form has been described by Roberts (1932) from north Zululand characterised by small size and darker upper side, characters which Mr. Clancey points out are born out by further material of *marleyi*.

Later Lynes collected *textrix* in Angola, naming the birds from the highlands west of the Kwanza river as *bulubulu*, but regarding the east Angola population as identical with Transvaal birds. It is now known that no *textrix* occur between north west Northern Rhodesia and the Transvaal so that it seemed likely that these two populations would prove distinct. The British Museum series from east Angola proved however to be too worn for a conclusive decision, but through the kindness of the National Museum, Bulawayo specimens from the Kabompo district of Northern Rhodesia have been compared by Mrs. Hall with the B.M. series and found to be distinct. I therefore propose:—

Cisticola textrix anselli subsp. nov.

Description: breeding dress like *major* (i.e. *mystica* auct.) but males probably with a darker crown; material of breeding birds inadequate. Non-breeding dress much paler than *bulubulu* and thus resembling *major*, especially in lacking rich red on upper tail coverts, but differing from

major and resembling *bulubulu* in having part of mantle feathers edged with white to give a whitish streaky effect.

Type: adult male collected by C. M. N. White on Minyanya plain, western Balovale, Northern Rhodesia on 15th June, 1943. In non-breeding dress. In my collection for deposit with National Museum, Bulawayo.

Distribution: plains in north west Northern Rhodesia in Kabompo and Balovale districts north westwards into Angola along the Lobito railway line to Vila Luso.

Notes: Named after Mr. W. F. Ansell, Provincial Game Officer, Kabompo who has recently contributed many interesting new records form that area. I am much indebted to the National Museum, Bulawayo for lending material of this species to the British Museum, to Mrs. Hall who made comparisons there on my behalf and provided the date upon which this note is largely based, and to Mr. Clancey for information about South African races examined by him.

Further notes on African Warblers

by Mr. C. M. N. White

Received 5th March, 1950

1. Some Central African forms of *Apalis thoracica.*

In Southern and Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland occur three races commonly recognised as *rhodesiae*, *arnoldi* and *whitei.* All are characterised by the reduction of yellow on the underside which is white except for the black collar and yellow on the lower abdomen. The extent to which they are washed with green on the mantle is very variable. I have recently been able to examine a series of 60 examples of the Southern Rhodesian forms, and 11 *whitei* from Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

Typical *rhodesiae* from the Matopos and adjacent areas whence I have seen 14 specimens has hardly a trace of green on the grey mantle, whilst the yellow of the lower belly is distinctly buffy in tinge. From Mt. Selinda to eastern Inyanga birds lack this buffy tinge in the yellow which is thus much purer yellow, sometimes slightly green tinged. The mantle shows a more marked greenish wash, sometimes strongly developed. In between there is a good deal of variation and a gradual cline of change. In Northern Rhodesia a population occurs in the Muchinga escarpment from Serenje to Mpika which has been identified with *whitei* of west Nyasaland. But for the gap in range caused by the Zambezi valley, it would be undesirable to distinguish these birds from *arnoldi* of eastern Southern Rhodesia. The development of green above is quite variable and the only difference I can see is that in series *whitei* has the flanks slightly greenish tinged, and not so clear yellow as *arnoldi.* Individual specimens are not separable. C. W. Benson tells me that he has seen *whitei* as far south as near Zoube in Nyasaland. Despite the broken range, I believe it is preferable to unite *whitei* (1937) with *arnoldi* (1936) and merely draw attention to the slight and inconstant average differences. Four examples of *youngi* from the Nyika are very distinct, lacking any green above or yellow on the belly.

2. The relationship of *Camaroptera brachyura* and *C. brevicaudata.*

The close relationship of these two species has been long recognised. *C. brachyura* has a green back, *C. brevicaudata* a grey or brownish grey back. In general they are allopatric, *brachyura* living in the coastal areas